

with many more civilian sectors in favour usually on the basis of the need for such weapons in order to reach great power status.

In India, timing was of the essence. Few wanted a weapons programme in the early years but this changed over time to where large and influential elements of civil society favour it now. But international pressures made defending the nuclear weapons option popular with wide segments of the nation, not just extreme nationalists. Equally, being seen as in favour of the nuclear option appeared to show independence of mind, national pride, determination to see India seated with the great, and other positive elements.

At the same time, Pakistan's much less open "debate" on such issues was more closely linked with specific defence issues, dominated on many scores by armed forces views which could be just as political as anything seen elsewhere. Nationalist and military support were absolutely central for political survival in the country, and with the need to make more equal the security relationship with India, possession of nuclear weapons was crucial.

History as well weighed heavily in all cases. Many Argentines felt bitterly that despite their successes in many fields, they had still been the victims of the peace in key ways. The River Plate viceroyalty had been torn apart by separatism and imperialist intrigues which had left a rump state, shorn of Paraguay, Uruguay, the Falklands and other parts of the North and South of the old colonial entity. The country had nonetheless built itself up to being the most prosperous, urban, educated, and culturally European state in all of Latin America. Its position, many argued, required that such superiority be recognized. And such recognition would come with, among other things, nuclear power and weapons, or so argued the nationalists and military.

Brazil had always been the largest country in Latin America and sole representative of another tradition, the Portuguese, in the Americas. Its slow rise to prominence had been blocked, according to nationalist tradition, by imperialism from without the hemisphere, and Argentine resistance, from within. The Second World War and after had shown that such prominence could no longer be delayed. And here again, nuclear power and weapons would assist in staking out the proper place for Brazil in the inter-American and wider global community.

India felt even greater frustrations. A region long dominated by the Muslim minority under the Moghuls, then by the British, a free India would be a worthy successor taking advantage of the unity established by London but developing into a great country whose achievements would be trumpeted to the world. No longer held back by others, citizens of the new country would show the international community of what they were capable. Development as a significant member of the community of states was a sacred duty. In all this, nuclear energy and weapons would assist.

In the case of Pakistan, a smaller and less self-assured country came into existence through the failure of the prospective Indian state, and its British predecessors, to convince the huge Muslim minority to stay in the new country. But the new state was prone to separatisms from the beginning, and the unique bifurcation of the country was sensed as dangerous for its survival, especially in the